

Before causing this legislation to be introduced, I consulted with the doctors, as you know, and was encouraged to believe that they recognized that a serious problem existed and that they believed that all of us having responsibilities in the field of public health should play a part in solving it. However, immediately after the meeting of the House of Delegates in Los Angeles, the attitude changed from cooperation to bitterness.

In spite of all this, I have tried to keep the discussion on a high plane, claiming no particular knowledge on the subject myself but asking only for cooperation in trying to meet the situation. I have no pride of authorship in the bill which we presented to the Legislature, and I have no doubt that improvements can be made in it. At all times I have been willing to make a modest beginning, if necessary, as a foundation for future development. However, to my great disappointment, I have never received from the Medical Association a suggestion or an alternative that would be helpful in the situation. Its campaign has been negative in every respect and has been typified by the speeches of Dr. Goin who stated, according to the press, that 95% of the doctors, including himself, would not cooperate in such a program even if the State should adopt such a program. He also stated on that occasion that he had never heard of any lack of medical care under our present system and that if there was any such lack of care it was caused by "superstition, religion, fear or procrastination."

I know of your great interest in this field and the contributions you have made throughout the years. I had hoped that you would be one of my allies in this fight. I was more firmly of that opinion after my conference with the Executive Committee of the California Medical Association, at which both you and I expressed ourselves on the subject. I sincerely regret that I have not had the opportunity to talk to you more often, as I am sure our innermost convictions are not so far apart as your last letter would indicate. Your offer to allow me to speak before the representatives of the California Physicians' Service is appreciated, but I believe no particular good would come from such an appearance. They are apparently too strongly committed against any legislative change. However, I want you to know that I have the highest regard for

these gentlemen and would do anything in my power to assist them. You know, of course, that I am always happy to talk to you on this or any other subject. I have delayed answering your letter for some days because I did not desire to discuss my answer with the press.

Hoping to see you when you are in Sacramento, and with best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

EARL WARREN
Governor

April 11, 1945.

Dear Governor Warren:

Thank you for your gracious letter of April 3rd, which reached me while I was taking a little rest period on a ranch in the lower San Joaquin.

It is to be regretted that the legislature has not faced the so-called health insurance issue. I am not proud of certain features of the campaign made against legislative action at this time. When I learned that there was to be a meeting of the Directors of the California Physicians' Service in Sacramento I wanted to have the courtesy of an invitation extended to you, just as you had invited members of the medical society to that meeting at the Family Club. Since this required Board action I sent to the members of the Board a confidential copy of my letter to you of March 22nd. This confidential copy was used rather freely without my consent. Apparently in the heat of controversy the essentials that I had in mind of a group of qualified physicians and surgeons providing prepaid medical care to a group of voluntary patients was by-passed.

Nevertheless I think that a great deal of good was gained by the discussion, since in a complicated social problem of this sort the more discussion the better. All the way through we have found it a most difficult subject to discuss because of the tendency to make charges rather than to seek for typical and workable plans. I think that this is a field in which there will be continued discussion and in which your leadership will continue to be helpful in getting an adequate solution.

With kindest personal wishes,

Faithfully,

RAY LYMAN WILBUR

Governor Earl Warren,
Sacramento, California.